

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT Courthouse and District Prison in Presov

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REFERENCES

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1. The Courthouse and District Jail in Presov form one city block, with two main buildings. They are in the center of the city of Presov, on Stalinova Avenue.
2. The courthouse is a 5-story modern building, 100 x 40 meters. The main entrance to the building is from Stalinova Avenue. The following offices are located in the building:
 - a. ground floor: Presov city administration and revenue office;
 - b. second floor: District Court.
 - c. third floor: Court of Appeal;
 - d. fourth floor: People's Court;
 - e. fifth floor: Prosecutor's and StB offices.

A corridor leads through all five floors. From the ground floor a shaft passes through to the upper floors. In the eastern part of the courthouse is a boiler house, on the ground floor, which also serves the prison. An underground corridor runs east from the boiler house, joining the courthouse with the prison. Prisoners and those held for investigation are led along this corridor to the hearings. Political prisoners are taken to the StB department on the fifth floor for investigation.

3. The most notorious prosecutors at the District Court in Presov in 1952 were Kadlec (fnu) and Najman (fnu), both active servants of the Communist regime.
4. The entrance to the prison building is on the street leading to the artillery barracks.¹ The building has five floors and is of the same size as the courthouse, 100 x 40 m. There are four separate exercise yards round the prison in the open space between the prison building and a five meter high wall, which has rounded corners and is wired on top with electric wire. The arrangement of the floors of the building are as follows:

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- a. ground floor of the building: Prison Guard Corps (SVS-Sbor vezenske Straze) post; prison administration; kitchen; workshops for the prisoners' needs; and food stores in the northern part of the ground floor.
 - b. second floor: cells for prisoners held for slight offenses (sentences of a few months).
 - c. third floor: cells for prisoners held for investigation or for slight offenses (sentences up to one year). There are no political prisoners here.
 - d. fourth floor: more serious criminal investigations; prisoners mostly in solitary confinement.
 - e. fifth floor: cells for political prisoners; All in solitary confinement. The cells here measure 3 x 2 x 5 meters and have lavatories and central heating. The windows are of thick glass with bars.
5. Political prisoners are questioned in the StB offices in the courthouse, or in the prison offices on the ground floor. They are ill-treated and often beaten. In 1951, a prisoner of Slovak nationality committed suicide. In 1951 a Slovak resistance group, numbering about 40 members, was imprisoned and investigated. There were also women among them. The group was caught distributing pamphlets in the Levoca area.
 6. The prison governor is a young lieutenant in the SVS, whose deputy is SVS sergeant Pavlik (fnu). He treats the prisoners comparatively well. The worst prison guard is the Communist Boda (fnu). He conducts a strict inspection of political prisoners every day. The non-Communist Rygelsky (fnu), who was transferred elsewhere for slackness in performing his duties, was popular among prison guards.
 7. Meals are as follows: Morning- black coffee, dry bread; on Sunday- coffee with milk; lunch- soup, potatoes, beans or peas; supper- potatoes, beans, or peas. There is meat on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturdays and Sundays.
 8. Most of the prisoners make paper bags. The prisoners are allowed to smoke in their cells while working. Visits are allowed, but no parcels may be brought or sent in.
 9. Only the main entrance is guarded by day. At night the SVS guards patrol the exercise yards, around the walls of the prison. Searchlights are turned on in each yard during the night. The SVS guards are armed with pistols and automatic rifles of German manufacture.

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Legend to sketch

1. Courthouse.
2. Main entrance to the courts from Stalinova Avenue.
3. Corridor through the courthouse.
4. Shaft.
5. Stairs to all floors.
6. Boiler house.
7. Underground corridor from courts to district prison.
8. Presov district prison building.
- 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d. Prisoners' exercise yards.
10. 5 meters high wall around prison.
11. SVS guard room.
12. Prison administration and StB offices.
13. Kitchen.
14. Stairs connecting all floors of the prison.
15. Main entrance.
16. Food stores.
17. Prison workshops.
18. Corridor through all floors of the prison.

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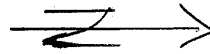
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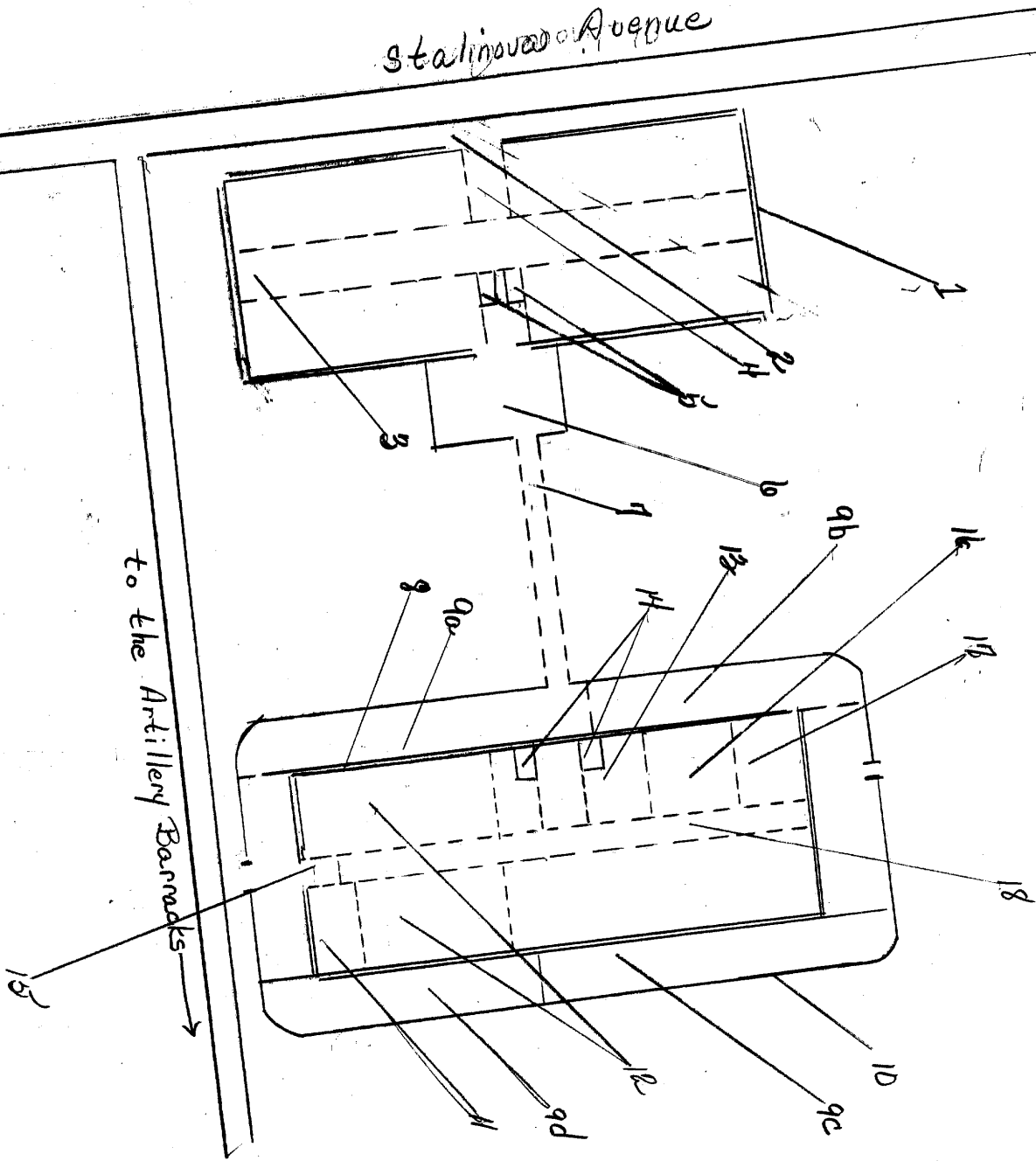
Court House and District Prison in Presov

Scale: 1:1000



Stalinova Avenue

to the Artillery Barracks →



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